

Question: Explain in detail the structure and functions of the Indian Parliament.

Answer:

The Indian democracy follows a **parliamentary system**, where provisions related to Parliament are provided under **Articles 79 to 122 of the Constitution**. The Indian Parliament is the supreme legislative body that consists of the **Lok Sabha**, the **Rajya Sabha**, and the **President**. Its primary functions include **making laws**, **ensuring government accountability**, and **protecting the interests of the people**.

1. Structure of the Indian Parliament

The Indian Parliament consists of three main components:

(A) The President

Provisions related to the President are mentioned under **Articles 52-62 of the Constitution**.

The President is an integral part of the Parliament but is not a member of either the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha.

No bill passed by the Parliament can become a law without the President's assent.

The President has the power to summon, prorogue, and dissolve the sessions of Parliament.

The President can issue ordinances under Article 123.

(B) The Lok Sabha (House of the People)

The Lok Sabha is known as the **Lower House** of Parliament.

Its members are directly elected by the people through general elections.

The maximum number of members in Lok Sabha is **552** (Article 81).

Currently, the Lok Sabha has **543** members.

The term of the Lok Sabha is **5 years**, but the President can dissolve it under Article 85 before the completion of its term.

(C) The Rajya Sabha (Council of States)

The Rajya Sabha is known as the **Upper House** of Parliament.

Its members are not directly elected by the people; they are elected by the **Legislative Assemblies of States and Union Territories**.

The maximum number of members in the Rajya Sabha is **250**, out of which 12 members are nominated by the President.

Currently, the Rajya Sabha has **245** members.

The Rajya Sabha is a permanent house and cannot be dissolved, but **one-third** of its members retire every two years.

2. Major Functions of the Indian Parliament

The functions of the Indian Parliament are not limited to law-making but also include governance control, financial regulation, and public welfare. The key functions of the Parliament are:

(A) Legislative Functions (Law-Making Functions)

The Parliament creates new laws and amends or repeals existing laws.

Articles 245-255 define the legislative powers of Parliament.

The power to make laws is divided into three lists (Article 246):

Union List – Parliament has exclusive power to make laws (e.g., defense, foreign policy, communication).

State List – Generally, State Legislatures have the power, but under Articles 249, 250, and 252, Parliament can also legislate on these subjects.

Concurrent List – Both Parliament and State Legislatures can make laws, but in case of conflict, Parliament's law prevails.

(B) Financial Functions

Parliament has the power to approve the financial budget of the government.

No Money Bill can be introduced in the Rajya Sabha, as it must be first introduced in the Lok Sabha.

Parliament reviews and approves the government's expenditures and taxation policies.

The Lok Sabha has more financial powers than the Rajya Sabha because Money Bills cannot be rejected by the Rajya Sabha.

(C) Control Over the Executive (Government Accountability)

The government (executive) is accountable to Parliament.

The leader of the majority party in the Lok Sabha becomes the Prime Minister.

Parliament can question the government's policies and decisions through:

Question Hour & Calling Attention Motion.

The Lok Sabha can remove the government through a No-Confidence Motion.

(D) Judicial Functions

The Parliament has the power to impeach the President, Vice President, and Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts.

Parliament can amend the Constitution under Article 368.

(E) Other Important Functions

Parliament plays an important role in declaring a National Emergency (Articles 352, 356, and 360).

It ratifies international treaties and agreements.

Parliament can create new states and alter state boundaries (Articles 2 and 3).

3. Major Differences Between Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha

Aspect	Lok Sabha (Lower House)	Rajya Sabha (Upper House)
Number of Members	Maximum 552 (Currently 543)	Maximum 250 (Currently 245)
Election Process	Members are directly elected by the public	Members are elected by State Legislatures
Term Duration	5 years , unless dissolved earlier	Permanent house , 1/3 members retire every 2 years
Power Over Financial Bills	More power ; Money Bills must be passed in Lok Sabha first	Cannot reject Money Bills ; can only suggest amendments
Appointment of the Prime Minister	The Prime Minister is appointed based on the majority in Lok Sabha	No direct role in appointing the Prime Minister

Conclusion

The Indian Parliament is the foundation of democracy in the country. It represents the people and ensures that the government remains accountable and transparent. The Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha together perform legislative, financial, and administrative functions. An efficient Parliament is crucial for a strong and effective democracy in India.



Sheo Vivek

**Assistant Professor,
Political Science, Shersha
College, Sasaram, District –
Rohtas, Bihar**